

The Celestial Empire.

We copy the following well-written article respecting the relations of England and China from the London Times, of Nov. 24th.

The new appointment to the governorship of Hong Kong betokens probably as much change in our Chinese policy as must result from the variations of individual views and dispositions. The successor of Sir John Davis will have the same interests to protect, and at first the same letter of law to guide him, but he may perhaps be encouraged in a bolder interpretation of his duty, and he will at least have the advantage of his predecessor's experience.

It is easier to define our present relations with China than to suggest the most expedient measures for improving them. By the treaty of Nanking we endeavored to subject an exclusive and semi-barbarous nation to that intercommunion with other countries which it had hitherto jealously opposed, not more to their loss than to its own. The dictation of terms had fallen into our own hands by the rights of war; and although it is true, that our moderation, as has since been ascertained, took the Chinese by surprise, yet this was less from any especial forbearance on our part than from a misconception of the particular concessions requisite to secure our aims, and of the guarantees necessary to insure an observance of the treaty. We surrendered Chusan—a cession in exchange for which we might have demanded a much more important equivalent, and we contented ourselves with Hong Kong—a settlement which it now seems no ingenuity or ability can render adequate to the purposes desired. This, however, is a point of which we could have had no right to complain, until a breach of treaty on the other side again empowered us to reconsider the conditions of peace. We must, of course, have paid for our errors. We made our choice, and had but to abide by it. The true ground of our remonstrances lay in the measures by which the Chinese virtually annulled the conditions which they had sworn, and altogether neutralized the very concessions which we had fought to exact. The specified ports were never in reality thrown open to that commercial intercourse which was understood by the terms of the treaty. Some of the stipulations to this effect were never fulfilled at all, and the observance of others was utterly nullified by the clandestine enactment of vexatious and oppressive regulations. Our trade with the north-eastern ports has fallen far short of the reasonable anticipations formed of an equitable traffic, and Canton remains practically as much a sealed city as it was before the convention of Nanking.

This last breach of contract, as it is the most tangible instance of dishonesty, so it is that concerning which the chief disputes have arisen. No war-ship would have ever been sent to Shanghai because our exports and imports at that place were below expectation; but some demonstration became necessary when our colonists were menaced with personal violence for requiring at Canton those privileges which had been solemnly promised them. The original treaty had stipulated for the moderate concession of a piece of land on the river side, sufficient for the reasonable purposes of ware-house room and exercise, and only to be taken by fair bargain at a just valuation. We were too much occupied with carrying into effect the other conditions of the treaty to take measures immediately for the due observance of this, and the consequence was, that a stipulation never very palatable to a turbulent and jealous population, was first evaded and then resisted, when an interval of independence had taught them the lesson of terror they had received. By his expedition of April last, Sir John Davis so far brought this refractory city to order that the magistrates renewed their obligations to cede the land required, but the effect of his summons was either very transient or very superficial, for recourse was had to the same shifts and evasions immediately on his departure, and we are just as far as ever from our purchase of land at Honan.

Our relations with the Celestial Empire are further complicated by the fact that we are brought into immediate contact with a singularly rebellious portion of its dominions. Canton is no more a fair specimen of a Chinese port than Bedares of a Hindoo city. A long established monopoly of trade, unusual wealth, large population and ancient traditions of supremacy over "barbarians," to whose humiliations they have been habituated, all conspire to make Canton a very troublesome and intractable party to any negotiation. Whether the Imperial mandate is indeed in force there, or whether it fails in reaching the distant and refractory province—whether the alleged weakness of the Government is real or assumed—we can hardly yet decide. It is sufficient for our purposes to know that practically, the undertakings of Government are not fulfilled, and that their inability to control a riotous multitude is made to cover the defalcation. It is evidently only by putting down this tumultuous resistance of the mob that we can either remove a real obstacle or destroy a convenient pretext. The question is no longer one of our claim to build houses at Honan or to walk about Canton, though it is tolerably clear that the immunities of this Celestial city, which might be harmlessly acknowledged by way of compliment or concession, have contributed not a little to inspire its inhabitants with that very arrogance which we must now repress. The point now to be considered is the position which we are to take up with respect to the Empire—whether we are to submit to impositions and insults, which, though they may originate in Canton, are probably not unacquainted at Peking, or whether we shall once more exert our strength with greater judgment to secure or extend the advantages we have won. The treaty of Nanking has been virtually infringed by the Chinese in the execution of every one of its articles, except that from which there was no retreat—the payment of the ransom. One condition is, at this moment, five years after the signature of the treaty, still palpably set at naught. The plausible admissions of the Government and its viceroys are rudely negated by the impetuous opposition of a mob whose opposition is a mob for whose conformity they are morally responsible, and they are thus either deliberately permitting the infraction of a treaty, or they can no longer claim the consideration due to a *de facto* Government. We have now an ample justification for first enforcing and then remodelling a treaty which our enemies have been unwise enough to disturb. It rests with ourselves what course to pursue, or what amends to demand.

THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, APRIL 29.

PAST—PRESENT—FUTURE.

It may not be uninteresting at the present time to take a cursory glance at the past, the present, and the future. In comparing the history of the past with the present state of the country, we shall plainly see what advances have been made; and by a careful review of the present we shall be better prepared to adopt the right course for the future. We shall doubtless find much in the history of the past to encourage future efforts, and much in the present state of the country that calls for renewed exertions on the part of all.

It is now only twenty-eight years since the first American Missionaries landed upon these shores. These islands were at that time almost unknown to commerce, and the whole mass of the people were sunk in the lowest depths of heathenish degradation. From the sovereign to the lowest menial, the whole nation bowed down to graven images, or worshipped gods, the creation of their own imaginations. To appease the anger of these imaginary gods, human sacrifices were offered up. The darkness and gloom of an eternal night hung over the land and not one cheering ray of light was visible. Bloodshed, strife, and all the accompaniments of heathenism and idolatry reigned in wantonness throughout the length and breadth of the land. Government was wielded with a despotic sway to which the history of the world produces scarcely a parallel. The principle of man's right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," was one not recognised here. If the shadow of a subject fell upon the King, he must die. From the highest to the lowest, each vied with the other in exercising in a lordly manner their power over their inferiors. In a word, the whole history of the past shows the condition of the nation to have been at that period truly deplorable.

It would be a laborious, but a pleasing task to trace the successive advances made—the banishment of heathen rites—the adoption of Christian forms of worship—the gradual enlightenment of the chiefs and people in the knowledge of letters—the abolishment of former absurd practices and customs—the bestowment of rights upon the common people—the struggle of the government against foreign aggression and the numerous difficulties to be overcome in the various improvements down to the present time; but as this task has been ably executed by our predecessor in his History of the Islands, we forbear enlarging upon this subject. Every candid man in perusing the history of this nation from its discovery to the present time cannot fail of being impressed with its rapid advancement—an advancement which finds no parallel in the history of the world. What it took ages to accomplish in England has been executed here one quarter of a century. From chaos, order has arisen—and a nation which in 1820 had no knowledge of letters and no law but despotism—in 1848 we find with books and papers, and a well organized system of government, with laws to afford equal protection to all. We are struck with astonishment when we contemplate the rapidity of these great advances; and the facts recorded in history speak volumes in praise of those who have contributed by their efforts to bring about such mighty changes. Viewed in comparison with the history of other ages and countries, the candid mind cannot but award the highest praise to those who have been instrumental in producing these reforms, and to the chiefs and rulers who have, when convinced of the justice of liberal measures, so nobly supported them, even though by so doing they have contravened their old and established customs and deprived themselves of long cherished rights and privileges. It is a difficult task to persuade those who have the power in their own hands to make concessions that conflict with their interest, their habits, or their long established usages. We all know how hard it is to break up established habits and customs, even when so doing does not conflict with our interests. Every reform in government or religion is at first viewed as an encroachment. Mankind are great sticklers for established forms and it is from a knowledge of this fact that we are led to more admire the ready concessions and advances made by the rulers and people of these islands.

In the history of the past we find abundant cause of congratulation and much that is calculated to cheer us in our efforts for the future. The past is the index of the future. If in times past advances have been made—prejudices overcome—long established usages broken up—and difficulties surmounted, it is reasonable to conclude that our existing difficulties can be overcome by applying the proper remedies. Having cursorily glanced at the past and shown that advances have been made, we will now endeavor to point out some of the difficulties which still exist in the way of future advancement. Notwithstanding much has been accomplished, much yet remains to be done. One great obstacle in the way of the native population is the difficulty of making the common people understand and appreciate the rights and privileges conferred upon them by the laws. It is difficult to do away with the impressions derived from the relation of landlord and tenant under the old feudal system. Notwithstanding the promulgation of the Declaration of Rights and the Constitution and the subsequent enactment of a code of laws securing to all their rights, the mass of the people are slow to avail themselves of the privileges thus bestowed upon them. Under the old feudal system each landlord had his agent, (*konohiki*) whose duty it was to collect the rent of lands, and who not infrequently acted *ex officio* as the judiciary and executive of the district. Not infrequently these agents appointed sub-agents who in turn appointed substitutes until the whole system has become so complicated as to defy solution or the ascertainment of the mixed rights involved. It is this complicated system that has so protracted the labors of the Land Commission and clogged all advance in permanent agricultural improvement. This class of agents, depending upon the labor of the tenants for support, frequently imposed upon them and made exorbitant demands, not so much however with a view to their principal's interest as their own. The principal—the chief—has by sanctioning just laws provided protection for his tenants, but at the same time he allows his agent to misconstrue those laws to the injury of the tenant. It is true the chiefs are in many cases ignorant of this injustice, for the gain is never

accounted for to them but is pocketed by the agent.

Several foreigners engaged in agriculture with whom we have conversed upon this subject, have expressed the opinion that no one thing has exerted, and continues to exert, so powerful an influence for evil as this class of land agents. In remote districts they not infrequently pervert every measure adopted by the government for the benefit of the common people. For instance, in the remote districts of Hawaii, when notices were published requesting the people to send in their claims to land, these agents, whose interests were likely to be affected by this measure, endeavored to persuade the people that it was all gammon, and even threatened if they sent in their claims, to turn them off their lands. They prevented those disposed to engage with foreigners from working and at the same time endeavor to dissuade them from getting lands of their own. We are aware that this system is so interwoven with interest, custom and habit, that it will not be an easy task to do away with it. I will take time, but it must, and we confidently believe will, be broken up. It is a system equally unprofitable to the landlord and unjust to the tenant. The recent movements respecting the titles to lands point to the time, not far distant, when this class, who, "dressed in a little brief authority, play such fantastic tricks" will be removed from their present position and placed on a footing more beneficial to themselves and to the country.

Although many of the common people have procured fee-simple titles to lands by which they are released from the labor tax formerly due the landlord, the mass are slow to perceive the advantages of such a course, and the landlords are loath to relinquish their claims for labor although by the law of the land they are obliged so to do. The landlord heretofore has had a right to call upon his tenants for labor and he is slow to perceive the good of measures which conflict with previous usage and his personal interests. It is a new idea with them to pay for that which long established usage has given them a right to. It is not surprising that such is the case; and although we may find much in the late movements respecting lands that does not come up to our go-ahead ideas, we cannot fail to notice cheering auguries of good.

The natural indolence of the people is another great obstacle in the way of advancement. Our legislators appear to have been sensible of the existence of this obstacle, for in their statutes we find they have made provisions respecting it. Idleness is not only a sin but a crime against the state. It has been so regarded by the law makers of other lands and it appears to have been so regarded by those who framed our laws. It must be apparent to the most casual observer that not a few of our inhabitants are guilty of the sin of habitual idleness, and are liable by the laws of the land, to be seized and put to work for the government. It is high time that the statute respecting vagrants be enforced. If those who have health and strength will not work for themselves, the arm of the law should be brought to bear upon them. Let the law respecting vagrants be strictly enforced and we should soon see our streets cleared of the throng of idlers who squander their time and live upon the earnings of the few who are industrious. Idleness is not only a political wrong, but it is a great moral evil. It is the parent of vice, and the exertions of every philanthropist and lover of his country should be directed to its removal. What persuasion cannot do the law should perform. It is doubtful whether all the foreigners could show a visible means of subsistence; if not, furnish them with one. While every inducement to industry should be given, punishment for idleness should not be withheld. We are confident that a strict enforcement of the law respecting vagrants would exert a salutary influence upon the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people.

There are other obstacles in the way of improvement equally worthy of notice. To remove these obstacles and to overcome the prejudices and former habits of the people will require wisdom, time and patience. The task is an arduous one, and the measures to be adopted, will at the best be experimental. We might proceed to make suggestions for the removal of some of these evils but we prefer leaving this to more able and experienced men.

We can see much to encourage those who are laboring for the advancement of the nation in the transactions of the past year. It will be seen by reference to His Majesty's speech that a division of the lands has been effected. This measure has been quietly and amicably acted upon; but it has proved a laborious task, and one which well answers the question so often asked, "What are the government doing to advance the agricultural interests of the country?" The importance of this measure may fail to attract the notice of those unacquainted with the previous state of land titles, but its effects will tell upon the future growth and prosperity of the country, in a manner not to be mistaken. By this division all those claiming to own lands have amicably adjusted their claims, and each one knows what lands are his. Each man's title is settled, subject only to the vested rights of tenants. These rights are in the course of being adjusted before the Land Commission, so that the time is not far distant when all the complications and difficulties which have enshrouded titles and retarded the sale and consequent improvement of lands will be removed. Previous to this division the government has really had no lands to dispose of, but now by the voluntary acts of the King and chiefs, certain portions of the lands have been set aside for the use and benefit of the government. These portions will doubtless be surveyed and put into market, so those who wish will find no obstacle in the way of procuring lands for agricultural operations. We cannot too much admire the wisdom manifested in the adoption of this measure. Great credit is due those who have toiled so assiduously to bring it about. We can see in the spirit of this measure the germ of future prosperity and happiness.

An idea prevails with some that it is not the desire of the government to encourage the investment of capital in the country. His Majesty's remarks on this subject refute such a supposition and show to the world what the policy of the government with regard to lands is. The naturalized officers to a man possess enlarged views upon this subject. Many not acquainted with the difficulties under which the government has labored have judged harshly. Time will show who have been the true friends of the nation. Finally, in this hasty review of the past and the present we find bright hopes and great encouragement for the future.

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

On Thursday, April 27th the Nobles and Representatives assembled according to previous notice. In order to afford accommodations to all the King's Chapel was chosen for the place of meeting. The diplomatic corps and their families, the officers of government and nearly all the foreign ladies and gentlemen resident in Honolulu were present. The church was decorated with evergreens—and notwithstanding its size was densely crowded at an early hour. The pulpit was enveloped in flags and in front of it a temporary platform was erected for the occasion. At precisely 10 o'clock their Majesties the King and Queen accompanied by the Ministers of State and the young Chiefs left the Palace under a royal salute from the battery on Punch Bowl. The royal cortege was escorted by His Majesty's body guard and the whole route from the Palace to the Chapel guarded by lines of soldier. On the arrival of the royal party at the entrance to the Chapel they were greeted with "God save the King" by the brass band. On the entrance of their Majesties the whole audience rose and remained standing until His Majesty took his seat upon the throne. After a short pause the Rev. Mr. Armstrong offered up to the Throne of Grace a short and appropriate prayer, when the audience was again seated. His Majesty then proceeded to read the Royal Speech, of which the following is a translation:

NOBLES AND REPRESENTATIVES.—I am glad to see you again assembled to deliberate for the benefit of all who live under my rule. I have ordered my Ministers to lay before you the Reports of their respective Departments, for the last year.

The relations of my Kingdom with all nations, with which we have intercourse, continue of the most friendly kind. It has pleased His Majesty the King of the French, to ratify the Treaty of the 26th March, 1846, in similar terms to those in which Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain ratified the British Treaty of the same date.

No Treaty has, as yet, been negotiated with the United States.

I have made a Treaty with the Republic and the Free Hanseatic City of Hamburg, which I hope will be beneficial to the Commerce of my Islands.

A division of Lands has been amicably effected, between myself and my Konohikis, by means of which one very embarrassing tenure has been simplified. I have set apart a certain number of Lands to be the property of my Chiefs and people, subject to such rules as you may adopt for their disposal. I have also reserved to myself a portion of lands which are to be retained as my private property, and to descend to my heirs forever. The rights of the Tenants are to be respected. It will be your duty, not only to pass such laws as may be useful for the regulation and disposal of those lands, but, if possible, to devise measures for the application of capital and labor to their improvement, in order to create an Export which may be exchanged for the productions of foreign countries.

Owing to the lamented death of my Minister of Public Instruction, some confusion has arisen in the application of funds for the support of Schools. It will be your duty to enquire if any adequate support can be given to this important national object, and at the same time the Labor Tax be dispensed with. Whatever you may do, you will bear in mind the equal toleration which is to be shown to both Catholics and Protestants.

I recommend you to consider the practical working of the Laws, and to adopt the improvements which experience may have suggested. The assurances received on the part of Great Britain and France, confirm me in my policy of resisting all foreign control in the government of my Kingdom, but we will always remember that, deriving every thing from God, we are to acknowledge Him and seek His glory in whatever we say or do, and that the cause of religion and morality is the first interest of my Kingdom.

May the Supreme Ruler of nations and of men, guide you in all your deliberations, to the enactment of laws, equitable, just and wise, promotive of a wholesome morality among my subjects, of glory to God, and of good will to all mankind.

When His Majesty had finished the delivery of his speech, Mr. Kaeo, one of the Nobles, rose and spoke nearly as follows:

Nobles and Representatives of the people.—Wonderful the excellence of the speech of our King; wonderful the impression made upon my heart by listening to him speaking as a father to his children; wonderful the approval of his words and the satisfaction of hearing from his mouth that the nation is at peace and on terms of friendship with other nations of the earth; wonderful the satisfaction at the setting forth of treaties, which are as iron bands to the nation. Great the sorrow at the death of the Minister of Education; we must foster that department. But the interests of agriculture which His Majesty recommends to our attention I most heartily advocate.

Where are you, people of the times of Kalaupou, of Kamehameha I. of Kamehameha II. Have you in ancient times witnessed such prosperity as we now behold. No. Kamehameha III. has, out of his generosity, divided the lands, conferring lands to us and to our children from generation to generation, for ever and ever; our King will be second to none for the admiration and respect which will be accorded him by all. Shall we not exert ourselves to improve the laws? Shall we not patiently endure every labor. We shall.

This is the best part of the King's speech, impressing upon us that we must trust in God, that God may assist us. This is true, I heartily approve.

Mr. Kekino, one of the Representatives, followed with some eloquent remarks upon the pleasure he had felt in listening to His Majesty's speech. He was pleased to know that a division of lands had been peaceably effected. He was happy to know that all their troubles with foreigners had been terminated. When His Majesty first chose naturalized foreigners to assist him, many entertained fears; time had shown those fears to be groundless. They could all now see the wisdom of His Majesty in choosing these men to assist him. It was through the labors of these intelligent men that the nation had been relieved from its embarrassments—and it afforded him pleasure to bear testimony to the wisdom displayed by His Majesty in selecting

them men to assist him in the administration of the government.

Mr. Namahope, one of the Nobles, next rose and made some appropriate remarks respecting the topics of interest in His Majesty's speech, and expressed his admiration of the measures heretofore pursued by the government. He was gratified to know that the foreign relations of the country were of a pleasing nature. He should take pleasure in giving his support to any measures that might be brought forward at the ensuing session of the Assembly for the advancement of the country.

Mr. Hulu, one of the Representatives, followed in some remarks of a similar nature. It afforded him great joy to learn that a division of the lands had been effected amicably. It was a measure of great interest to the nation. It was a strong proof of the interest His Majesty and the Nobles felt in the welfare of the common people. It would afford great satisfaction to the commoners, and he begged leave to testify his admiration of the wisdom and liberality displayed in the adoption of this measure.

G. L. Kapeau, governor of Hawaii, then rose and proposed that a committee be chosen to draft a reply to His Majesty's speech. He moved that Messrs. Kanehwa, Piikoi and Wana be this committee. The motion was put by His Highness the Premier as Chairman for the occasion and unanimously carried.

The Assembly was then adjourned until Friday the 28th at 9 o'clock. Their Majesties the King and Queen rose, and accompanied by the Ministers of State and the young Chiefs bearing the lofty *Kahilis* and escorted by the guard, returned to the Palace.

Previous to their leaving the Chapel the choir of the Rev. Mr. Armstrong's church rose in the galleries and sang a song composed for the occasion.

The day was pleasant but cool. The most perfect order was preserved throughout, and if the countenance be an index of the feelings, there were few present who did not participate in the pleasure of meeting under such circumstances. The manner and style of the orators was the subject of much comment among the foreigners present. As we looked upon the scene, we could not refrain from contrasting it with the sights which presented themselves to the visitor on these shores in years gone by. There were those present to whom the contrast must have been more striking—those who were among the first of the missionaries to these islands. It must have been a pleasing subject of contemplation to them and one which afforded them a gratifying reward for all their labors.

On Friday the 28th at 9 o'clock A. M. the House of Nobles and Representatives met according to adjournment. The committee chosen to draft a reply to His Majesty's speech, submitted the following, which was read and approved:

[TRANSLATION.]
On behalf of the Nobles and Representatives of Your Kingdom, we crave leave to approach Your Majesty with feelings of loyalty, love and duty.

We are all much touched with Your Majesty's solemn address and invocation of the Spirit of the Most High to guide and direct us in our deliberations.

We are reminded of several things that Your Majesty has recommended to us in previous years, that from want of time and experience we have not sufficiently attended to. During the present session, we shall endeavor, with the blessing of God, to give them every attention in our power.

We are pleased to know that all foreign nations continue to look with friendship to this small state, and that Your Majesty persists in your policy of governing it independently and of showing equal favor to all nations.

We shall carefully examine and consider the division of lands, which has been so happily concluded between Your Majesty and your Konohikis, and adopt our Resolutions with due regard to Your Majesty's rights, the rights of the Landlords, and the rights of the lower orders and of all others who have an interest in the soil.

We shall endeavor to encourage industry among all classes, as the best means of promoting religion and morality, of increasing the number of your subjects, and adding to their wealth and happiness.

Considering that what progress we have made during the last 26 years, is mainly to be attributed to education and Christianity among us, it will be our duty to encourage Missionaries, Schools, and Teachers as the best means of still further advancement.

In the death of the late Minister of Public Instruction, Mr. Richards, the nation has sustained a heavy loss.

May it please Your Majesty to remedy it as to your wisdom may appear fit.

We shall carefully attend to all petitions or complaints in regard to the laws, and their administration, and where evils exist, we shall endeavor to remedy them.

So far as the revenues of the country permit, we shall be ready to vote the funds necessary for all useful purposes of Your Majesty's Government.

May God preserve Your Majesty.

Their Majesties the King and Queen, accompanied as on the previous day, left the Palace at 10 o'clock. After their arrival at the Chapel a prayer was offered up by Mr. Li one of the Nobles. The several annual Reports of the Ministers were then read in their order and received for consideration and adoption, after which the Assembly adjourned to Tuesday next at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Legislature previously met on the 25th of April to organize and receive the Deputies from the different islands. Three of the members of the House of Nobles were absent. The following is a list of those present at the organization:

Gentlemen—Abenera Paki, Beniki Namakehu, Joane Li, M. Kekuanana, James Y. Kanehwa, Geo. L. Kapeau, Paulo Kanon, Charles Kanani, Anrona Keliianohu, Josepa Kaeo, N. Namauu, Kaisara Kapakea, Jona Piikoi.
Ladies—Mrs. Young, Alapai; Mrs. Pitt, Keolikolani; Mrs. Paki, Konia; Mrs. Kapakea, Keohokalele.

The Representatives who were found to have been duly appointed took their seats. We submit a list of them.

Messrs. D. Kanehwa and Wahineiki from Hawaii; Messrs. W. Kahole and J. Hulu from Maui; Messrs. K. Kupanui and J. Kekino from Oahu; and Mr. Wana from Kauai.

W. E. Maikai was appointed Secretary of the House of Nobles.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

The time has arrived when the necessities of Honolulu seem to demand the formation of a Municipal Government. It is a form of government the least onerous, and one which the experience of all civilized communities proves to be the best adapted to promote the interests of populous towns. In a well organized Municipal Government the various interests are all represented—the different topics of local interest all brought forward for discussion—and the action on these subjects being the action of the people through their representatives, is calculated to give satisfaction to all.

Thus far, the expense of public improvements in our town has been borne by the government and by private individuals. Many of our citizens who have enjoyed the benefit of these improvements have contributed nothing towards defraying the expense. It is unreasonable to expect the government to defray the expense of local improvements out of the public treasury for it would be manifestly unjust to require inhabitants of remote districts to contribute an equal share towards defraying the expense of improvements made for the special benefit of the inhabitants of Honolulu. It is true that many public improvements which would benefit one portion of the country more than another; but the expense of merely local improvements the inhabitants of the locality should pay. If the citizens of Honolulu desire good streets and side-walks it is but fair that they should pay for them.

By the organization of a Municipal Government the governor would in a measure be relieved of the burden of local matters—the different measures of improvement having each its advocate would receive attention—and the expense would be shared equally by all. It would remove all cause of complaint, as none but those who participate in the improvements would be obliged to contribute towards defraying the expense. The responsibility would rest on the people, and the blame if any would fall on them. No one could reasonably complain, as all would be represented in the council of government.

Another good effect which the organization of a Municipal Government would have, would be to open the eyes of the people to the many proceedings in such matters. The different interests to be all represented would require citizens to be in the Council. The manner of conducting the election and the form of voting at the meetings would be novel to the natives, but it could not fail to awaken interest in their minds. It would be a new era in the political existence. The questions brought for discussion at the meetings would afford a basis for conversation. Questions might be calculated to arouse the latent energies of the minds and we might be astonished with the eloquence. It would at least awaken an interest in the minds of the people, and the effect would not be salutary.

Much that is true has been said respecting the necessity of local improvements. Here gentlemen is the way open—take the necessary steps, bring the subject before the present assembly, the Legislature—obtain an act of incorporation for the town of Honolulu—elect your officers—pass your measures of improvement and order—and finally, doubtless, if you have your share of the expense.

TEETOTALISM AMONG PUBLIC MEN.—The following extract is from a speech of Rev. Marsh, delivered at the late World's Temperance Convention held in London:

"That man—Hon. F. H. Everett—after ambassador at the most noble court in Rome returned to his own country to devote himself to the training of the young men of America in the President of our oldest University. He surveyed the young men committing a care, he asked, how shall I commence my speech? Shall it be with wine on my table? He declined to begin with teetotalism. And at an inauguration dinner, at which six hundred first citizens of Massachusetts and other states including Mr. Webster and other eminent individuals were present, there was not a drop of intoxicating liquor."

It would seem that Mr. Everett had been a wine drinker. Though a public man, he occupied stations of great influence, and he had been long a prominent example to his countrymen, he had never felt under obligation to abstain from this habit in order to promote the cause of temperance. Other men had labored and made such sacrifices for the good of society. Strange that he, so intelligent, so discerning, generally disposed to benefit mankind, should be placed at the head of a college, and comprehend the fearful effect of his own example. It is a grateful fact however that he commenced a radical reform in his own house. He abstained wholly from spirituous liquors to induce students to do the same. It was a noble and worthy of every public man. A high example gives any man great influence. A public manner of life is a standard to which people refer. His example is a sort of shield, hind him the wine drinker and even the brandy bibe himself. It is hard to refuse a polite offer of the glass at his own table. Harder, at the large social party to be so temperate and exclusive, while he, an officer of government or the distinguished agent of a foreign power, is indulging in wine. Soon after he must drink to the health of the Consul or His Majesty's Minister. Many yield at such a time. He violates their principles from respect to their official men; others drink there for the first time and others still gratify their appetite even to intoxication. Were the men of high rank to abstain entirely from the use of wine, or to abstain with the stronger liquors, the first classes would be saved from their chief danger and the other class would feel a salutary example. Such a decision on their part would do more to promote the cause of temperance in their own land than a treaty prohibiting importation of spirits or laws prohibiting license. This is the proof of your interest in the good of the people. This shall be the test of your regard for the countrymen resident here. Gentlemen, take the noble stand of President Everett.

Mr. Moser, Dillon, Consul of France and